

**AUTOMATIC CLARIFICATION OF COMMANDS IN A CONVERSATIONAL**  
**NATURAL LANGUAGE UNDERSTANDING SYSTEM**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5           A system and method for recognizing commands in  
natural language includes a speech recognizer for decoding  
language and semantic information in utterances provided by  
a user. A dialog manager provides a hierarchical ordering  
of handlers, each handler being trained to be responsive to  
10       decoded utterances. The dialog manager manages arbitration  
between the handlers to determine a winning handler for an  
utterance and decodes the command in accordance with the  
winning handler.